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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Powell: Resistance intensifies in Iraq - Sabah  
US doesn't believe peace will come to Iraq - Turkiye  
Kurdish population growing in Kirkuk - Aksam  
Washington Post: PKK disintegrating - Turkiye  
PM Erdogan signals cabinet reshuffle - Aksam  
Papandreou: Change in Turkey 'surprising' - Milliyet  
Egypt involved in Israel's killing of Hamas leader - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Powell: Anti-Americanism on rise in Islamic world - Zaman  
Powell acknowledges situation getting worse in Iraq -  
Cumhuriyet  
Powell: Resistance growing in Iraq, things getting worse -  
Radikal  
European press: Turkey now closer to EU - Yeni Safak  
Syria route 'thorny' for Turkish truckers - Radikal  
Syria detains 26 Turkish truckers - Yeni Safak  
Israel threatens Syria - Cumhuriyet  
Second Intifadah turns 5 - Yeni Safak  
Intifadah Brings Death, Misery to Palestinians - Zaman  
Russian forces kill Turkish militant in Chechnya -  
Cumhuriyet  
Attacks against foreigners on the rise in Russia - Radikal

BRIEFING

US companies may be excluded from Turkey's defense projects: The economic-political daily "Referans" claims that US Eric Edelman warned officials at Turkey's Defense Industry Undersecretariat that Turkey might face problems in the installation of American electronic warfare systems if Ankara decides to buy attack helicopters from non-US companies. In that case, Turkey will have to get special permission from the US to equip the new helicopters with US Hellfire missiles, "Referans" reports. The report suggests that Ankara's cancellation of three defense projects worth \$6 billion in May 2004 was an indication that US companies may be eliminated from the helicopter tender. The project was scrapped after three years of discussions US-based Bell Textron after the US Administration declined to give Turkey crucial information regarding the helicopters' computer systems. There is speculation that Turkey may prefer to purchase the helicopters from EU members like France and Italy in an effort to increase Ankara's chances of being granted a date for EU entry talks in December.

FM Gul in New York: On Monday, FM Abdullah Gul said at a dinner hosted by the American-Turkish Society (ATS) and National Committee for American Foreign Policy in New York that Turkey did not have a secret agenda, but only a 'legitimate interest' with regard to Iraq. Gul stressed that Turkey and the US have been working together for a prosperous Iraq, adding that the two countries needed more cooperation in the region. 'The logistical needs of coalition forces are mainly met by Turkey,' Gul claimed, recalling that 3,000 Turkish trucks carried goods into Iraq every day. The Turkish FM also assessed the need for a joint fight against terrorism. 'Our government has increased the standards of democracy and human rights in Turkey to the level of European norms through sweeping reforms over the past two years,' Gul noted. 'A European Union decision to grant Turkey a date for accession talks will be an historic decision for the world,' Gul said, 'and it will also add momentum to Turkey-US relations.' FM Gul blamed the Greek Cypriots for 'missing an opportunity' for peace in Cyprus. 'There would have been only 600 Turkish troops instead of the thousands now deployed on Cyprus if the Greek Cypriots had accepted the UN-backed plan for peace,' Gul said.

**TalAfar/Kirkuk:** Turkmen officials from TalAfar told "Hurriyet" that the recent attack against the northern Iraqi town had been a 'rehearsal' for a larger military operation in Kirkuk in an effort to reduce the Turkmen population on the eve of a general census in Iraq. During the US operation, they claimed, unidentified gunmen fired on TalAfar residents and later hoisted a Kurdish flag in the city fortress. The flag was soon removed by Turkish special team members accompanying US troops, "Hurriyet" reports. Meanwhile, "Cumhuriyet" cites international wire services reporting on Kurdish attempts to drive Arabs and Turkmen out of Kirkuk in an effort to dominate the oil-rich northern Iraqi city. Human Rights Watch (HRW) said last month that if land ownership disputes between Arabs and Kurds are not resolved, the already strained ethnic relations in the area could 'explode.'

**US assistance for Turkish Cypriots:** A 7-member team from the US consulting firm "Bearing Point" held meetings in Cyprus in an effort to ease international sanctions on the northern Cypriots and to promote economic growth in the north, reports the Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak." USAID funded the visit, which was aimed at determining the disposition of the additional \$30.5 million aid package allocated by the US for the Turkish Cypriots. The assistance package is intended to augment existing bi-communal programs and facilitate the reunification of the island by supporting economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community, according to a statement by the US Embassy in Nicosia.

**Greeks urge EU to boycott EU-OIC summit:** The Greek Cypriot Administration is strongly opposed to northern Cypriots' joining the upcoming meetings between the EU and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) under the name "'Turkish Cypriot state.' The meeting is to be held at the foreign ministerial level in Istanbul on October 4-5. Nicosia is urging EU members to boycott the forum if the Turkish Cypriots attend the talks under that name. 'The designation 'Turkish Cypriot State' is part of Turkish Cypriot efforts for recognition, and will harm efforts for a solution,' a Greek diplomat in Ankara told "Cumhuriyet." The paper fears that the EU-OIC summit in Istanbul could end up as a fiasco if the Europeans side with the Greek Cypriots.

**Syria detains Turkish truckers:** Syrian customs officials detained 21 Turkish truck drivers in the northern city of Aleppo for carrying diesel exceeding the legal limit of 200 liters per truck, papers report. The truckers were reportedly carrying fuel for US troops in Iraq. The Turkish consulate general in Aleppo said the drivers would be released after appearing before a court on Tuesday. Turkish truckers prefer the comparatively 'secure' Syrian route in the face of intensifying attacks against Turkish workers in Iraq.

**AKP Debates Intra-party Democracy:** In a speech to AKP deputies at the resort town of Kizilcahamam near Ankara, PM Erdogan said that Turkey must 'eliminate superficial tensions with the state and society' and respect 'the free choices' made by Turks. Erdogan faced significant criticism by some AKP deputies for a perceived lack of internal democracy within the AKP. Yahya Akman, an AKP deputy from Sanliurfa, warned that the party could split if the views of deputies are not taken into account by the party leadership.

**EDITORIAL OPINION: UNGA; Iran**  
**"A role for the future"**

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/28): "The UN General Assembly has served as a suitable forum for Turkey to voice Ankara's determination to play a significant role in international platforms. Foreign Minister Gul talked about Turkey's experiences and positions on issues ranging from the Balkans to Iraq, from Palestine to Afghanistan, and from terrorism to anti-Semitism. Given Turkey's involvement in international organizations, the Minister stated Turkey's advantage in contributing to a convergence of the Islamic world and the West. Turkey wants to see a restructuring of the UN. It also wants to be a member of the UN Security Council. There are more reasons than ever before to expect that Turkey will be supported for this position. Turkey is becoming an increasingly important international player due to its recent efforts in world affairs. The expectations voiced during the UNGA indicate Turkey's willingness to expand its role even further."

**"Democracy in the Middle East"**  
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative-mass appeal *Turkiye* (9/28): "During his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Bush said that 'although lives were lost in Afghanistan and Iraq, we were able to bring democracy to those countries.' This statement would seem like a huge gaffe, but we shouldn't see it that way. It is certain that his speech was prepared very carefully some weeks ago. Let

us ask the question correctly: 'What kind of regime does the US mean when it refers to democracy for the greater Middle East?' No doubt, a democracy of the west European or North American type is not being considered. The presence of political parties and the holding of seem to be deemed sufficient. But democracy depends on many other factors. Democracy is a way of life. The countries and people of the Middle East don't know anything about this way of life. They have never lived under such conditions. It is even wrong to say that they want to live under such a regime. Democracy in the west is real democracy, but in the east it is a utopia. Turkey is outside of this 'Greater Middle East', but is still very close to it. But even Turkey reached a democracy consistent with the Copenhagen Criteria only yesterday. Even then, most of the criteria have still not been implemented. Therefore, although the US has officially announced its plans to establish democracy in the Greater Middle East, in reality the US plan is to establish an Asian or African type of democracy there. It has been openly stated that the US has the right to intervene in these countries to establish such a democracy. President Bush has explained the 'Pax-Americana' concept. Turkey's national policy should be to make the right decisions about where and how to stand in relation to this concept".

"The US will strike Iran"

Nejat Eslen, a retired general, commented in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (9/28): "The US is actively preparing for a preemptive strike against Iran in order to prevent Tehran from becoming a nuclear power. The US is very determined about this issue. The only questions are about timing and methods, and the strategic centers in Washington are now working hard on these problems. . In the event that Iran becomes a real nuclear power; the entire regional equilibrium would change. Such a possibility would also bring the potential for an arms build-up and a nuclear weapons race in the region. . Turkey should consider taking new measures based on these developing circumstances even if the Iranian nuclear capability does not target Turkey."

EDELMAN